

# FASCIST FORCES MOVE NATIONWIDE TO DESTROY BLACK PANTHER PARTY



LONNIE MC LUCAS

*When the oppressor makes a vicious attack against freedom fighters because of the way that such freedom fighters choose to go about their liberation, then we know we are moving in the direction of our liberation.*

— Huey P. Newton

The Black Panther party is under nationwide attack, in a concerted government effort to destroy gains the Panthers have made in black communities. In a June 5 press conference, Bobby Seale, Black Panther party chairman, said more than 40 Panther leaders have been arrested in the last two months. The Panthers have lost key people in Oregon, Connecticut, Colorado, New Jersey and California. Seale termed these arrests "nothing more than Richard Nixon's operations."

Seale's figure of 40 did not include the Panthers in New York City who are conspiring to bomb several depositories at the Botanical Gardens, several police headquarters and tracks. This was the high point of the attack which has brought 60 charges against the Panthers in months. There have been no convictions.

Thirteen of the Panthers are held on \$100,000 bail each in seven states. They are kept in tight security. They are kept in limbo, allowed no recreation or liberty. They are not permitted to meet as a group and William Kunstler, to prepare their defense.

Under these conditions and the Panther 21 are guaranteed a hearing scheduled, on June 11. Defendants are in court for a show-cause hearing before the commissioner of corrections to show their bail or to show that no hearing has taken place which would release them.

There have been 10 hearings. Lonnie Epps, a minor, had his bail released. A "friendly" bailboomer called from DA Phillips saying he was in business if I bailed out the Panther 21.

The government has used the Panther 21 to harass Panther chapters all over the country. In Conn. on May 22, eight members were arrested and charged with conspiracy. A New York Panther who, though not named, was against the Panther 21.

## Raids a pretext

Panther offices in Chicago have been raided by police and FBI. In New Haven "fugitives." Local police raids to turn community opinion against the Panthers have also been pretexts for the seizure of organizing material, money and weapons.

In New Haven, Conn. police kidnaped Alix Rackley from his home. Rackley, the co-chairman of the Panther 21. The New York Panther who was an excellent organizer who had

**CONNECTICUT PANTHERS**



**PEGGY HUDGINS**



**ERICA HUGGINS**



**WARREN KIMBRO**



**MAUDE FRANCIS**



**JEANNIE WILSON**



**ROSE SMITH**



**FRANCIS CARTER**



**GEORGE EDWARDS**

# FASCISM

Fascism is the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic (racist) and most imperialist elements of finance capital. It does not stand above both classes - the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, nor is it super-class government, nor government of the petty-bourgeoisie or the lumpen proletariat over finance capital. Fascism is the power of finance capital itself. FINANCE CAPITAL manifests itself not only as banks, trusts, and monopolys, but also as the human property of FINANCE CAPITAL - the avaricious businessman, the demagogic politician, and the racist pig cop. FASCISM is the organization of terrorist vengeance against the working class, and the revolutionary section of the peasantry and intelligentsia.

## CAPITALISM PLUS RACISM EQUALS FASCISM

Harlem. "Brother Alix was murdered by the pigs and now eight Panthers have been framed on trumped-up charges and are being held captive without bail."

On June 3, Chicago police and FBI agents with machine guns forced their way into Panther headquarters, claiming they were looking for "George Sams, a fugitive from New York." Eight Panthers were arrested, charged with harboring a federal fugitive and illegal possession of weapons.

Two days later in Denver, Rory Hithe, 18, and Landon Robert Williams, 25, were arrested for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. They were taken into custody at Panther headquarters and charged with being involved in the New Haven case. Bail for each was set at \$200,000.

Another Panther allegedly involved in the case was arrested in Salt Lake City June 6. Lonnie McLucas, 23, was charged with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution and had bail set at \$100,000.

On the night of June 7 about 400 black people gathered in the street outside the Indianapolis Black Panther party office. Three cops in a patrol car tried to disperse the crowd. The cops claim they were attacked.

Police used the gathering as a pretext for entering the Panther office and busting everyone present. About half of the 30 persons arrested were Panthers. The incident happened on the second night of disturbances in Indianapolis, in which about 200 blacks have been arrested and six injured. One undercover agent was reportedly wounded by a sniper.

These raids on the Panthers are being used in New York to prejudice the public against the Panther 21. The press reports each bust with blaring headlines, although the Panthers here have never been found guilty on any charge. The press never mentions the Panther's 10-point political program or the fact that they are setting up free medical care services and free breakfasts for school children. We never hear that the Panthers say, "We want land, bread, housing, education, justice and peace;" instead we hear trumped-up charges, ridiculous stories and enormous bail figures.

Action is being taken to publicize the real nature of the nationwide move against the Panthers. A series of demonstrations have been held in New York, the most recent on June 3 at the federal courthouse, where 200 people showed up.

Two of the Panther 21—Joan Bird and Afeni Shakur—and two Panthers arrested on other charges are being held at the Women's House of Detention, 6th Avenue and West 10th Street. The Ad Hoc Committee to Support the Panther 21 has called for a demonstration there on June 14 at 1 p.m.

In New Haven, members of Yale SDS distributed a leaflet stating, "The charges against the New Haven Panthers, which have been trumped up by the government and police, are intended to intensify race hatred by playing upon the lies and myths instilled in white people by the educational system and the mass media."

The Panthers have called for a national conference of revolutionaries to form a United Front Against Fascism. The conference will be held July 18-21 in Oakland, Calif. The Panthers expect 5000 participants and the call to the conference stresses the need for "a front which has a common revolutionary ideology and political program which answers the basic desires and needs of all people in fascist, capitalistic, racist America. Primary objective will be *community control of police to end fascism.*"

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